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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /087 W
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0580

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO; BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCT 31-NOV 6

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EXISTENCE OF THE OCT 25 EASTERN DATA PROPOSAL BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WITH THE DISTRIBUTION AT THE REGULAR PRESS BREIFING FOLLOWING THE NOV 3 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS OF THE TEXT OF AN INFORMAL STATEMENT MADE
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BY SOVIET REP AT THAT MEETING WHICH HAD CONCLUDED WITH A REFERENCE TO IMPORTANT NEW PROPOSALS INTRODUCED BY THE EAST IN THE DATA DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY
2. AT THE NOV 3 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA TALKS, POLISH REP STRULAK AND SOVIET REP TARASOV MADE INFORMAL STATEMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCT REVOLUTION. SOVIET REP CONCLUDED HIS INTERVENTION WITH A REFERENCE TO THE RECENT

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SUBMISSION BY THE EAST OF NEW AND IMPORTANT COMPROMISE PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE DISCUSSION OF MANPOWER DATA. THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING SUBSEQUENTLY DISTRIBUTED AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF TARASOV'S PLENARY REMARKS, THEREBY INTRODUCING THE LATEST EASTERN DATA PROPOSAL INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EASTERN MOVE, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO OFFER ANY FURTHER DETAILS EXCEPT TO SPECIFY THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE IN LATE OCT. WHEN ASKED LATER BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS FOR COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT, THE WESTERN PRESS SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT THE EAST HAD MADE A NEW DATA PROPOSAL AND THAT THE WEST HAD IT UNDER STUDY AND WOULD RESPOND TO THE EAST "IN DUE COURSE." THE PROPOSAL IS OF LARGELY PROCEDURAL CHARACTER.

3. DURING THE NOV 1 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY THEIR OCT 25 DATA INITIATIVE, STATING THAT THEY HOPED FOR A POSITIVE WESTERN ANSWER TO IT. THEY SAID THAT THE EAST STILL MAINTAINED THAT THE DATA DISCUSSION SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE REDUC-TION APPROACH OF EITHER SIDE, BUT DEFENDED PREVIOUS EASTERN CRITICISM OF THE WESTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE WESTERN REFUSAL TO REDUCE IN UNITS ON GROUNDS THAT THE DATA ON MAJOR FORMATIONS SOUGHT BY THE WEST WAS, IN ANY CASE, NOT RELEVANT TO REDUCTIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR THE FIRST-PHASE WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR THE MANPOWER STRENGTHS OF SUCH FORMA-TIONS COULD BE SEEN AS PREJUDICIAL TO THE OVERALL EASTERN POSITION. MEANWHILE, EASTERN REPS SAID THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT ON DATA

COULD NOT EXCUSE THE WEST FROM SEEKING TO RESOLVE OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS AGREEMENT TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS AND AIR FORCE AS WELL AS GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL AND ON THE METHOD OF REDUCTION. AS REGARDS METHOD, THEY STATED THE EASTERN APPROACH REQUIRING ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE BY UNITS WAS EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE WHEREAS THE WESTERN APPROACH THAT THE WEST SHOULD REDUCE BY THIN-OUT AND THE EAST BY LARGE FORMATIONS MERELY REFLECTED THE WESTERN DESIRE FOR ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS AND WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

4. WESTERN REPS EMPHASIZED THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEC 1975 WESTERN PROPOSAL TO REDUCE AND LIMIT US NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THEY NOTED THAT, WHILE CLAIMING TO HAVE MOVED WITH ITS FEB 1976 PROPOSAL TO MEET THE WESTERN POSITION ON PHASING, THE EAST STILL APPEARED TO BE DEMANDING A COMMITMENT BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO MAJOR POINTS OF THE ORIGINAL EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. WESTERN REPS AGAIN UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SAID THAT THE EAST WAS YET TO GIVE IT DUE WEIGHT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. FRG REP BEHRENDS DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT MADE AT THE NOV 3 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION ANALYZED THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AND OUTLINED THE WESTERN VIEW OF ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO THE SHAPING OF AN AGREEMENT. FRG REP DEMONSTRATED THAT, IN CONTRAST WITH EASTERN PROPOSALS,

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WESTERN PROPOSALS WOULD LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME IN
CONFORMITY WITH THIS PRINCIPLE. RESOR

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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